

Preservation 50

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act

Death Valley National Park plans to celebrate the National Historic Preservation Act's 50th birthday on October 15-16, 2016. The NHPA is a cornerstone of American historic preservation. It was created in the belief that too many important historic places were being lost to post-World War II development and construction, and that the federal government could (and should) play an important role in protecting places that embody the United States' cultural heritage.

The public will be invited to learn about Death Valley's rich cultural heritage through presentations by local historians, archeologists, and tribal members. Sunday field trips and hands-on activities will immerse participants in the history and prehistory of Death Valley and the surrounding area.

The goal is to engage park visitors in a conversation about the past to leverage their enthusiasm for preservation in the future. In the words of the Act:

"The historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people . . . the preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans" – National Historic Preservation Act, 1966

Agenda

Saturday, October 15: Visitor Center Auditorium

08:30	Welcome by Death Valley	Mike Reynolds Superintendent Death Valley National Park
08:45	Welcome to NHPA Day, logistics	Wanda Raschkow Park Archeologist
09:00	Living and Working in the Death Valley area	George Ross Resident of Shoshone-Tecopa area Southern Paiute
09:30	Historic Preservation in Death Valley	Wanda Raschkow
10:00	The Ashford Brothers	Susan Sorrels Owner/Operator Shoshone Village
10:30	break	
10:45	The Oasis and Dyer Ranches of the Fish Lake Valley: A Photographic History	Walter Roth
11:15	Ancient Tools and Technology	Jonathan Penman Brotzman Park Compliance Program Manager
11:30	Hands on with atlatls Bow and Arrow Demonstration	Jonathan Penman Brotzman Amanda Landon Park Compliance Archeologist
12:00	Lunch in the Visitor Center courtyard	
01:00	Don Martin: Rock Art Pioneer	TBA
01:30	The "Other" 20 Mule Team Borax Trail	Judy Palmer
02:00	California Archeological Site Stewardship Program: an Overview	Beth Padon, CASSP Coordinator Ken Lengner
02:30	Death Valley Native American Projectile Points	
03:00	break	
03:15	The Story of Ryan	Jessica L.K. Smith, PhD
03:45	Historic Preservation and Restoration at Ryan	Scott Smith
04:15	Logistics for Sunday Field Trips	Wanda Raschkow

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Sunday, October 16

All Field Trips and activities meet at Furnace Creek Visitor Center at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted.

Ryan Camp Field Trip

Limited to 15

Jessica and Scott Smith

The History of Borax: Field trip to Harmony Borax

Carrie Jordan

The Story of Manzanar and its Connection to Death Valley

Alex Rothermel

Archeological Data Recovery: Finding History in Dirt

Morning Session: 12 people

Afternoon Session: 12 people (Meet at Visitor Center at 1:00)

Wanda Raschkow

9:00-12:00

1:00-4:00

Flint-knapping Demonstration

Borax Museum

Joe Moore